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Color it communist

WASHINGTON

Soviet influence increased in 25 nations during the past decade, and red-colored countries on a secret intelligence map graphically illustrates the point, says CIA Director William Casey.

Casey, a spokesman said today, in April asked CIA cartographers to prepare two maps, one showing 'Soviet influence' in 1972 and another showing it this year.

The intelligence agency chief made reference to the map in a recent speech to the American Legion in Chicago.

'When this map was finished, 50 nations were in red,' said Casey. 'Only 10 years ago, in a similar map I had prepared, only half as many nations of the world were colored in red.'

Casey said four countries 'extricated themselves from the Soviet grasp' during the past decade but 25 others 'either fell under an increased degree of Soviet influence or faced an insurgency backed by the Soviets or their proxies.'

CIA spokesman Dale Peterson said Casey uses the maps he had prepared to point out that 'Soviet influence appears to be growing throughout the world.' Peterson said the maps 'show it has increased pretty dramatically.'

The maps, said Peterson, cannot be made public because classified information was used to prepare them, adding, 'We were not able to create that kind of map using only unclassified sources.'

Peterson said Casey uses the maps' findings 'regularly when talking to people, and said the documents prepared as a 'serious study. It's not meant

to be a joke. It's not a joke. We use it in a very serious fashion.'

Without elaborating on the categories, he said the red areas on the maps are in various shades of red to reflect 'several categories' of Soviet influence.